

January 29, 2001

US Forest Service  
Atlanta, Georgia

Concerning the Final Report of the SFRA:

I understand the Forest Service is in the process of preparing a final report on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment. I have read a summary of that assessment and I know the history concerning the implementation of the assessment. The primary force behind this assessment was environmental organizations whose intent was to hurt the Forest Products Industry in the South.

The report indicates that the Forest Products Industry has done a good job in the South. Not only has the industry provided many jobs ( jobs that provided much opportunity for children in the South ), but the industry has had a positive impact on southern lands. The industry has done much good for southern people and southern property. Sound Forest Management has been successful in the South, for the people and for the land.

The report indicates that urban areas are the problem. Their populations spill over into the rural South and that is what is hurting the land. The results is a lower quality of life for the people and a lower quality environment. Urban impact is negative. It does no good for the people and no good for the land. Compare that to the impact of the Forest Products Industry.

I hope the Forest Service honors the report and not the voices that have proven to be wrong. Those that ask for the report should now work to solve the problem. Management of southern lands in the rural South is not the problem.

Thank you.

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